

Serial No. 10/624,752
Docket No. EH-10667

REMARKS

The Office Action rejected Claims 1-19. Applicant amended Claims 1, 6, 8, 14, and 19; and added Claims 20-26. Claims 1-26 remain. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The Office Action rejected Claim 19 as being indefinite and failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. Specifically, the Office Action stated that "said shaft" on line 1 of claim 19 lacks antecedent basis. Applicant modified claim 19 to provide antecedent basis. Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The Office Action rejected Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-15, and 17-19 as being anticipated by United States Patent Number 5,542,479 to Stachler et al. ("Stachler"). Independent claims 1, 8 and 14 each recite, *inter alia*, that the handle "move[s] relative to" the slider when the slider strikes the stop. Stachler fails to disclose or to suggest such a feature. Although describing that the knobs (54) can rotate around the shaft (56), Stachler does not describe or suggest that any movement occurs when the slider strikes the stop. None of the remaining cited references provide a motivation for such a modification. Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1 and 4-6 are rejected as being anticipated by United States Patent Number 6,035,946 to Studley et al. ("Studley"). As discussed above, independent

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claim 1 recites *inter alia*, that the handle “move[s] relative to” the slider when the slider strikes the stop. Studley fails to disclose or to suggest such a feature. The handle (10) of Studley appears rigidly secured to the sliding weight (9). None of the remaining cited references provide a motivation for such a modification. Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 10 and 16 are rejected as being unpatentable over Stachler, in view of United States Patent Number 5,398,773 to Baker (“Baker”). As discussed above, Stachler fails to disclose or to suggest all of the features of independent claims 8 and 14. Baker and the remaining cited references fail to overcome the shortcomings of Stachler. For at least this reason, the rejection was improper and must be withdrawn.

Other Claim Amendments

Applicant made one change to the claims neither for purposes related to patentability nor in response to an objection or rejection in the Office Action. Specifically, Applicant added “wherein” to claim 6 to correct a grammatical error. This change does not narrow the scope of the claims.

Newly Added Claims

Applicant added new claims 20-26. The newly added claims find support in the disclosure as originally filed. For example, support for claim 20 appears in original claim 1 and

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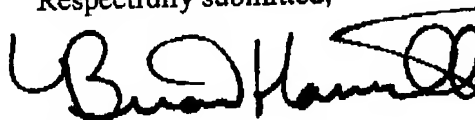
paragraphs 36 and 38; and support for claims 21-26 appears in original claims 2-7, respectively. The newly added claims also define inventions that are patentable over the cited references.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the claims are now in condition for allowance. Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the restriction requirement and rejection. Applicants solicit the allowance of Claims 1-26 at an early date.

Applicants authorize the Commissioner to charge the \$194 total fee due (\$108 (6 x \$18 = \$108) due under 37 CFR 1.16(c) for the presentation of six (6) claims in excess of twenty (20), and \$86 fee (1 x 86 = \$86) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 (b) for independent claims in excess of three) or for any other fees due under 37 C.F.R § 1.16 or 17, or to credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account Number 21-0279.

Respectfully submitted,

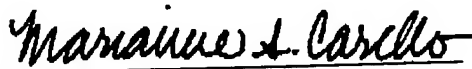


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